

**REMARKS**

As a preliminary matter, the specification and drawings are objected to for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the present Office Action. Applicants amend the specification and Figs. 1 and 2, as indicated herein and the hand-corrected figures, and Applicants believe that these changes obviate the Examiner's objections to the specification and drawings.

Claims 1-18 are all the claims pending in the present application. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by van Valkenburg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,258), hereinafter referred to as Van.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicants submit that Van does not teach at least, "a controller which ...transmits the packet through the transceiving unit to the destination slave device through the single master device," as recited in amended claim 1. That is, the Examiner acknowledges that Fig. 7 of Van shows that a packet is transmitted from a slave 1 to a slave 6 via master devices A and B; however, nowhere does Van teach or suggest transmitting the packet to a destination slave only through a single master device. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that independent amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Van.

Applicants submit that dependent claim 2 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 1.

With respect to independent claim 3, Applicants submit that Van does not teach or suggest at least, "wherein the controller records a source address in a payload region of the packet." To support the rejection of claim 3, the Examiner alleges, in part, that "the Master A receives the packet and generates a next-hop packet including a new packet header and a new

payload, wherein the new payload inherently includes both the data and the source address (the slave 1) of the packet sent by the slave 1." In response, first, Applicants submit that the Examiner is referring to a new payload that is generated by the master A. However, according to the features of claim 3, the claimed controller (that records a source address in a payload region) is that of a slave device. Therefore, to the extent that any recording of a source address in a payload region of a packet occurs in Van, such recording obviously is not performed by a controller of a slave device.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that the Examiner has clearly utilized impermissible hindsight reasoning in alleging that the new payload inherently includes both the data and the source address. The portions of Van cited by the Examiner describe the contents of the packet header sent from slave 1 to master A (see col. 9, lines 50-52) and the packet header sent from node 18-3/16 to node 22 (see col. 9, lines 62-65). There is no such mention of recording source address data in a payload region of a packet. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that independent claim 3 is patentably distinguishable over Van.

Applicants submit that dependent claim 4 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 3.

With respect to claim 5, Applicants submit that Van does not teach or suggest at least, "wherein the addresses are active member addresses which the master device allocates to distinguish the connected slave devices," as recited in amended claim 5. That is, even if, *arguendo*, an AM\_ADDR address is assigned to a sending node (as indicated at the portion of Van cited by the Examiner), there is no teaching or suggestion in Van that the addresses are active member addresses which the master device allocates. Therefore, at least because each and

every limitation of claim 5 is not taught, Applicants submit that his claim is patentably distinguishable over Van.

With respect to independent claim 6, Applicants submit that Van does not teach at least, "a controller which ... reads a packet received directly from said at least one slave device via the transceiving unit and transmits the packet directly to a corresponding slave device through the transceiving unit if there is an address of the corresponding slave device recorded in a destination address region of the packet," as recited in claim 6. The portion of Van cited by the Examiner only discuss either a master device receiving a packet from a slave and transmitting a corresponding packet to another master device, or a master device receiving a packet from another master device and sending a packet to a slave device. Nowhere does Van disclose a wireless communication device that serves as a master device receiving a packet directly from a slave and transmitting a packet directly to another slave. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that independent claim 6 is patentably distinguishable over Van.

Applicants submit that dependent claim 7 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 6.

With respect to claim 8, Applicants amend this claim, as indicated herein, to be placed in independent form and submit that it is patentable over Van at least for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 3. That is, nowhere does Van teach that an address recorded in a payload region of a packet is an address of the transmission slave device.

With respect to independent claim 9, the Examiner apparently believes that subject matter of this claim is the same as that of claim 1. However, the subject matter of claim 9 varies in scope from that of claim 1. One feature of claim 9 that is not recited in claim 1 and is not taught

or suggested by Van, is "the slave device obtaining an address of the destination slave device from the master device," as recited in claim 9. Van does not teach this particular feature, therefore, the present invention, as recited in independent claim 9, is not anticipated by Van.

Applicants submit that dependent claims 10-12 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 9.

Further, with respect to claim 11, Applicants submit that this claim is patentable at least for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 3. Further, with respect to claim 12, Applicants submit that this claim is patentable at least for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 5.

With respect to independent claim 13, Applicants submit that this claim is patentable at least for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 9. That is, Applicants submit that Van does not teach or suggest at least, "obtaining an address of the destination slave device from the master device," as recited in claim 13.

Applicants submit that dependent claims 14-16 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 13.

Further, with respect to claim 15, Applicants submit this claim is patentable at least for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 3. Further, with respect to claim 16, Applicants submit that this claim is patentable at least for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 5.

Finally, with respect to claim 17, Applicants submit that this claim is patentable at least for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 6. Claim 18 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 17.

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U. S. Application No. 09/901,153**

**ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q63309**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Diallo T. Crenshaw  
Registration No. 52,778

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
23373  
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**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Fig. 1 and 2 are labeled "Prior Art". Fig. 2 is amended to change "HEL" to "HEC".

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet



FIG.1  
PRIOR ART

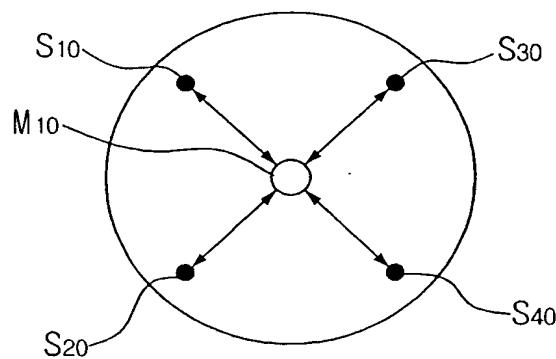


FIG.2  
PRIOR ART

